

IN THE CLAIMS

1-60. (cancelled)

61. (previously presented) A method for controlling an electrophotographic printer or copier that has at least one developer station for developing a latent charge image on a photoconductor with toner, comprising the steps of:

detecting a toner discharge from the developer station during print operation and starting a developer regeneration process when the detected toner discharge fulfills a predetermined first regeneration criterion;

generating a charge image on the photoconductor, developing the charge image by the developer station, and removing the developed image by a cleaning device without being transfer-printed onto a recording medium;

introducing new toner into the developer station; and

wherein the printer or copier comprises a plurality of developer stations whose toner discharge is respectively detected and in which for the case that the developer regeneration process is started for one developer station, it is checked whether the detected toner discharge of the remaining developer stations fulfills a second regeneration criterion, and a developer regeneration process is likewise started for developer stations in which the second regeneration criterion is fulfilled.

62. (previously presented) A method according to claim 61 wherein the second regeneration criterion is fulfilled when the average toner discharge has fallen below a predetermined threshold for a predetermined number of successive time intervals that is less than the predetermined threshold in the first regeneration criterion.

63-84 (cancelled)

85. (previously presented) A control device for an electrophotographic printer or copier that has at least one developer station for developing a latent charge image on a photoconductor with toner, said control device performing the functions of:

detecting toner discharge from the developer station during print operation and which starts a developer regeneration process when the detected toner discharge fulfills a predetermined first regeneration criterion;

when a charge image is generated on a photoconductor, detecting the charge image by the developer station and removing the developed image by a cleaning device without being transfer-printed onto a recording medium;

introducing new toner into the developer station;

the control device being suited to determine an average toner discharge for time intervals of predetermined length, and in which the first regeneration criterion is fulfilled when the average toner discharge has fallen below a predetermined threshold for a predetermined number of successive time intervals; and

wherein the printer or copier comprises a plurality of developer stations whose toner discharge is respectively detected and when it starts the developer regeneration process for one developer station the control device checks whether detected toner discharge of remaining developer stations fulfills a second regeneration criterion, and starts a developer regeneration process for developer stations in which the second regeneration criterion is fulfilled.

86. (previously presented) A control device according to claim 85 wherein the second regeneration criterion is fulfilled when an average toner discharge has fallen below a predetermined threshold for a predetermined number of successive time intervals that is lower than the predetermined threshold given the first regeneration criterion.

87-98 (cancelled)